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HOUSEKEEPERS' CHAT

Saturday, November 6, 1937

(FOR BROADCAST USE ONLY)

Subject: "NEWSNOTES FROM WASHINGTON." Information from the Office of Information U. S. Department of Agriculture.

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Our letter from Washington, D.C., this week is brimful of news--news of bees and beekeepers, of chrysanthemums in Department of Agriculture greenhouses, of economists gathered to discuss the outlook for the farm and home during the coming year, and--but let me read the letter.

Our correspondent says: "Bees are making honey in the lobby of one of Washington's prominent hotels as I write this letter. I've been there and have seen it with my own eyes. A huge hive is set up in the hotel and through a glass window into the hive you can see the bees hard at work.

"This is just one of the many exhibits on display this week as part of the International Beekeepers' Congress. Another interesting and appetizing exhibit--perhaps I should also call it a beautiful exhibit--is a collection of honey from all nations, the finest collection of this sort ever brought together. The State Department and the Department of Agriculture together arranged this international display of honey. There I saw honey from Russia put up in tall glass jars, each jar marked as to the kind of flower that made the honey and the place where it was made. I remember one jar labeled "field flower honey from the collective farm of the little red house" and another labeled "clover honey from the hive of the comrade bee-instructor." Farther on were jars of honey from England, France, Germany, Holland, Jugoslavia, handsome pottery jars of honey from Syria, attractive metal containers that looked like silver from Switzerland, heather honey from Scotland that is of jelly consistency and bright containers of honey made from various Chinese flowers. A good many visitors who were looking at this exhibit when I was, seemed surprised at the great range of colors and flavors in honey. The flavors ranged from the very delicately flavored honeys of the orange blossom and white clover to the strongly scented buckwheat honey and the slightly tart tulip poplar honey. Colors ran from almost pure white to deep gold, red, green and dark brown.

"Another exhibit of honeys from the United States showed that bees make honey from a great number of sources--from the tall tulip tree to the tiny white clover, from the tupelo gum tree that grows in the swamp to the mesquite blossoming on the desert. Some of the interesting American honeys featured in this exhibit were the white honey made from Oregon fireweed blossoms, the yellow honey from Texas catclaw flowers, and a blend of honey made by bees imported for the Matanuska settlers in Alaska.

"Other appetizing exhibits showed ways to use honey in cooking--honey candies, cookies and cakes made by housewives entering a recent honey contest.

"More than a thousand beekeepers from this country, Canada and foreign countries are attending this meeting. They are showing particular interest in the foreign honey exhibit which suggests new ways of merchandizing honey. Foreign beekeepers have taken the lead in colorful and attractive containers for their honey. They have also sent displays of their very handsome posters to advertise their product and photographs of beekeeping in foreign lands.

"While the beekeepers are busy at their meeting, another group of visitors is just as busy at another important yearly meeting. These are the home management specialists from the different States who have come in for their annual outlook discussions. They are here to meet with Department of Agriculture economists to discuss the outlook for family living during the coming year. (You'll be hearing more about these meetings when your correspondent has had time to attend some.)

"Between the hotel where the beekeepers are meeting and the Department of Agriculture Building where the economists are gathered are the Department greenhouses. And inside of those greenhouses thousands of chrysanthemums are beginning to show color in preparation for the thirty-sixth annual Chrysanthemum Show staged by the Bureau of Plant Industry. At this writing, the plant scientists can't tell the exact date when these blooms will be out and ready for show but, by the time my next letter comes in, I hope to tell you all about it.

"More than 300 of the chrysanthemum varieties that will be on display this year originated in the very greenhouses where the show takes place. They were developed as one phase of the Department's work in flower breeding which has been underway for many years.

"But, as I said, I hope to be writing you all about these chrysanthemums next week."

That concludes this week's Department of Agriculture letter.

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